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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1377**

2 Offered January 21, 2026

3 *A BILL to establish the Virginia Military Institute Advisory Task Force.*

4 Patrons—Helmer, Austin, Feggans, Martinez, Reid and Thornton

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6 Referred to Committee on Rules7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 1. *That the Virginia Military Institute Advisory Task Force (Task Force) is hereby created as an*
9 *advisory commission within the executive branch. The purpose of the Task Force is to determine whether it*
10 *should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education.*11 2. *Notwithstanding § 2.2-2101 of the Code of Virginia, the Task Force shall consist of four members of the*
12 *House of Delegates, at least one of whom shall have served in the military, to be appointed by the Speaker*
13 *of the House of Delegates; two members of the Senate of Virginia, at least one of whom shall have served in*
14 *the military, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; a representative of SCHEV; and four*
15 *civilian members, two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and two of*
16 *whom shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and who shall collectively have subject matter*
17 *expertise or experience in workforce development, oversight of student welfare at public institutions of*
18 *higher education, and educational instruction at public institutions of higher education.*19 3. *In conducting its work, the Task Force shall:*20 1. *Reevaluate the findings of the Commission to Survey the Educational System of Virginia in 1928 to (a)*
21 *determine whether educational services rendered by VMI are duplicated at other institutions of higher*
22 *education in the Commonwealth and (b) evaluate the relative cost to the Commonwealth and taxpayers of*
23 *those courses of study at VMI and as compared to other public and private institutions of higher education*
24 *in the Commonwealth;*25 2. *Determine (a) the extent by which VMI provides leaders to the Armed Forces of the United States at an*
26 *advantageous cost or with advanced training and capability as compared to other institutions of higher*
27 *education or other commissioning sources in the Commonwealth and (b) the feasibility of expanding*
28 *programs at other public institutions of higher education to replace the role of VMI in providing taxpayer-*
29 *funded commissioned officers to the Armed Forces of the United States;*30 3. *Evaluate (a) the rigor of current academic curriculum offerings at VMI as compared to other public*
31 *institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth, (b) the extent at which current academic offerings at*
32 *VMI meet the defense and non-defense needs of the Commonwealth, and (c) whether additional academic*
33 *program offerings should be approved by SCHEV and provided to students enrolled at VMI, should VMI*
34 *remain a state-funded institution of higher education;*35 4. *Thoroughly audit any actions taken by the leadership of VMI following the release of the 2021 special*
36 *investigative report to SCHEV to determine if VMI (a) has initiated any substantial changes to its policies,*
37 *values, and preventative, investigative, and disciplinary procedures to reduce acts within their student body*
38 *that could be perceived or classified as racist, sexist, or misogynistic or as an act of sexual harassment or*
39 *sexual assault; (b) has actively made efforts to distance itself from the lost-cause narrative or other*
40 *celebrations or promotions of the Confederacy in the American Civil War; and (c) possesses the capacity as*
41 *an institution to end celebration of the Confederacy;*42 5. *Analyze admissions data for each year of incoming students beginning in 2021 to determine if VMI has*
43 *been successful in recruiting and admitting a more diverse body of students and if admissions priorities*
44 *have shifted away from a focus on students with legacy status or other alumni relatives;*45 6. *Based on these analyses and evaluations, provide a recommendation as to whether VMI should continue*
46 *to receive public funds as a state-sponsored institution of higher education, and include any additional*
47 *recommendations for actions VMI should take in the future to address any remaining concerns, should it*
48 *remain a state-sponsored public institution. The task force shall be authorized to explore any other*
49 *questions or concerns about VMI that may arise, and shall include any such questions or concerns, and the*
50 *resulting investigations, analyses, and recommendations resulting from or addressing such questions or*
51 *concerns, in its final report.*52 53. *The Task Force shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2026, and shall submit to the Governor*
54 *and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations for*
55 *publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as*
56 *provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative*
57 *documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2027 Regular Session of the General Assembly and*
58 *shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.*

INTRODUCED

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